

CLAIMS

1. A process for making spoonable and pourable dressings comprising
 - a) combining raw ingredients in a pre-mix tank comprising a means for mixing to form a coarse emulsion, and
 - b) processing the coarse emulsion in one pass through an in-line mixer/emulsifier comprising at least one set of stator and rotor, and a variable speed motor to drive the rotor, wherein the stator and rotor comprise co-axially engageable rings of teeth having a plurality of concentric vanes and concentric wells with generally slanted side walls from each vane to each well and the rotor and stator when engaged are such that the concentric vanes of the stator align with the corresponding concentric wells of the rotor and the concentric vanes of the rotor align with the corresponding concentric wells of the stator with the corresponding generally slanted walls of the stator and rotor aligned and when engaged a gap having an axial opening dimension and a slanted opening dimension is defined by each concentric vane and each concentric well and the aligned slanted walls and the gap is adjustable in increments of about 0.015 inches in axial opening dimension.
2. The process of Claim 1 wherein the axial opening dimension is from about 0.010 inches to about 0.500 inches.

3. The process of Claim 1 wherein the axial opening dimension is from about 0.030 inches to about 0.180 inches.
4. The process of Claim 1 wherein the diameter of the stator and rotor is about 9 inches or more.
5. The process of Claim 1 wherein the diameter of the stator and rotor is about 12 inches to about 18 inches.
6. The process of Claim 1 wherein the diameter of the stator and rotor is about 15 inches.
7. The process of Claim 1 wherein the adjustable motor operates at up to about 3,600 rpm.
8. The process of Claim 1 wherein the rotor operates at rotational speeds of about 1,500 rpm to about 8,000 rpm.
9. The process of Claim 1 wherein the rotor operates at rotational speeds of about 1,900 rpm to about 5,000 rpm.
10. The process of Claim 1 wherein the rotor has a tip speed of about 6,500 ft/min to about 15,000 ft/min.
11. The process of Claim 1 wherein the rotor has a tip speed of about 7,125 ft/min to about 14,125 ft/min.
12. The process of Claim 1 having a throughput rate of about 100 pounds per minute to about 1,000 pounds per minute.
13. The process of Claim 1 having a throughput rate of about 145 pounds per minute to about 1,000 pounds per minute.

14. The process of Claim 1 having a throughput rate of about 500 pounds per minute to about 750 pounds per minute.
15. The process of Claim 1 wherein the co-axially engageable rings of teeth of the stator and rotor are separated to define radial channels.
16. The process of Claim 15 wherein the stator and rotor comprise a plurality of radial channels.
17. The process of Claim 1 wherein the raw ingredients are comprised of an oil phase, an egg phase and an aqueous phase.
18. The process of Claim 1 wherein the raw ingredients are comprised of an oil phase, an egg phase and a starch paste phase.
19. The process of Claim 1 wherein the raw ingredients are comprised of an oil phase, an egg phase, a starch phase, a sweetener phase and an aqueous phase.
20. The process of Claim 1 wherein the raw ingredients are comprised of an aqueous phase, an oil phase, an acidulent phase and, optionally, a solids phase.
21. The process of Claim 1 wherein the raw ingredients are combined to form an emulsion containing product.
22. A spoonable or pourable dressing made by the process of Claim 1.